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Letter dated 6 June 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a diplomatic note dated 4 June 2014 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam addressed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China concerning China's continued illegal operation of the oil rig Haiyang Shiyou 981 in the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf of Viet Nam (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and the annex thereto circulated as a document of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 76 (a).

(*Signed*) **Le** Hoai Trung
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Viet Nam

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Annex to the letter dated 6 June 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Hanoi, 4 June 2014]

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China and, with reference to China's illegal deployment of the oil rig Haiyang Shiyou 981 in the exclusive economic zone and continental shelf of Viet Nam, has the honour to inform the latter as follows:

1. According to the competent agencies of Viet Nam and the announcement of the Chinese Maritime Safety Administration, on 27 May 2014 the oil rig Haiyang Shiyou 981 was moved to the location at 15-33.38 north/111-34.62 east, which is entirely within the exclusive economic zone and continental shelf of Viet Nam. The operation of China's oil rig and its escorting ships constitutes a continued serious violation of Viet Nam's sovereign rights and jurisdiction over its exclusive economic zone and continental shelf as defined in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, of 1982. China's action also violates the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, the Viet Nam-China Agreement on basic principles guiding the settlement of maritime issues and other relevant agreements between high-level leaders of the two countries, gravely undermining the political trust between the two countries. Viet Nam resolutely protests against China's illegal action.

2. In the past days, in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea and other agreements between the two countries, Viet Nam has made every effort to communicate and conduct dialogue with China under various forms and at various levels to demand that China immediately terminate acts that infringe upon Viet Nam's sovereign rights and jurisdiction, respect Viet Nam's sovereignty over the Hoang Sa archipelago, create conditions for immediate commencement of discussions between the two sides on measures to stabilize the situation and control the maritime issues between the two countries. China has not only failed to respond to Viet Nam's goodwill, but also arbitrarily moved the oil rig Haiyang Shiyou 981 and escorting ships to another location well within the exclusive economic zone and continental shelf of Viet Nam and continued to dispatch more military ships, such as fast attack crafts, missile-armed frigates, amphibious transport docks and fighter jets to the area where the oil rig is operating. More seriously, Chinese ships rammed and sank Vietnamese fishing boat ĐNa 90152 TS, with 10 fishermen on board, fishing in the exclusive economic zone of Viet Nam, and rammed and broke the Vietnamese Coast Guard vessel CSB 2016, on duty in the Vietnamese waters. These actions by China have aggravated tensions in the East Sea and seriously threatened peace, stability, freedom of navigation and maritime security and safety in the region, causing concern in the international community, fuelling discontent among the Vietnamese people and adversely affecting the good friendship and the long-standing, traditional ties between the two countries' parties, governments and peoples.

3. Once again, Viet Nam seriously demands that China respect international law, immediately terminate all activities that violate Viet Nam's sovereign rights and

jurisdiction over its exclusive economic zone and continental shelf, withdraw the oil rig, ships and all other related vehicles from Viet Nam's waters and desist from similar actions in the future. Viet Nam also solemnly requests China to resolve all maritime disputes as well as those concerning China's illegal deployment of the oil rig in the exclusive economic zone and continental shelf of Viet Nam, through negotiations or other peaceful means in conformity with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China the assurances of its highest consideration.